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Students feel effects of economy

By Christa Stewart
News Writing Student

The turmoil on Wall Street has caught up with some students of OCCC.

"The downturn in the national economy is making it more difficult than ever for students to pay their bursar bills," said Bursar Brandi Henson.

Henson said about 2,900 students failed to pay their bursar bill on time in October. She encourages all students to take steps now to be sure they don't get caught in a financial tailspin.

With the fluctuating state of the economy, college students are becoming increasingly aware of the value of

"This is a time when people, especially students, need to start living below their means."

—Brandi Henson
Bursar

when people, especially students, need to start living below their means."

Some OCCC students have been paying closer attention to their finances.

"With commuting to school and the state of our economy, I really have to pay attention to small things I wasn't as attentive to before," said student Kristin Harper of Norman. "It affects how I plan trips to school for things such as office hours and where I drive outside of commuting to class.

"I try to avoid driving for things such as shopping, too, if I am already at home. I try to plan grocery shopping around my schedule so I don't have to make other trips."

For many OCCC students, the fact that the school has the lowest tuition and fee rates in the area, and enjoys a central location in the city, helps cut their expenses. In addition, one-third of the student population is taking advantage of the OCCC payment plan, which allows them to spread out their tuition payments throughout the semester.

Henson said she encourages students to pay off more than the required amount for monthly payments. By doing so, she said, students can reduce the 2 percent finance charge that is added to each month's payment.

In addition, making payments on time can help students avoid

the dollar. With growing worries about gas prices, tuition rates and the high cost of books, many students are becoming much more careful about budgeting and about the activities in which they engage.

"People aren't just jumping in the car to take a drive around town anymore," Henson said. "This is a time

See "Economy," page 9

Preparation



Photo by Kenny Hilburn

Chelsea Nguyen, left, and Quyen Le, both pre-pharmacy majors, study together for a test. OCCC provides many relaxing areas where students can have quiet space to cram for tests or just to relax and get away from the day's stresses. The college also houses numerous learning labs for those who need help with writing, math, science and more.

Halloween party Oct. 31

By Dillon Hart
Staff Writer

OCCC's annual Halloween Carnival will take place on Halloween night for the first time in five years.

OCCC will hold the festival from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 31, in the OCCC College Union, said Student Life Assistant Marcy Roll.

Roll said she expects the carnival to be bigger than ever.

"It's always been pretty big," she said. "I think last year we had around 1,500 people.

"It seems to me that it gets bigger every year. And this year, it's actually on Halloween night."

Roll said the carnival will have plenty of activities for kids and adults, such as a deejay, carnival booths, and lots of candy.

Various student clubs and organizations will set up many other activities.

Roll said student clubs receive applications to select from a list of events.

"Applications are sent out to the clubs, and then they can say what they'd like to do. It's a service project for them."



The price of admission for children is \$1. Parents can attend for free.

Parents and kids are advised to enter the building through Entry 6 in Parking Lot D.

Roll can be reached by phone at 405-682-1611, ext. 7792, or by e-mail at mroll@occc.edu.

Staff Writer Dillon Hart can be reached at StaffWriter2@occc.edu.

Editorial and Opinion

Editorial

Racism still lingers

Sadly enough, the issue of racism still plagues a nation that has fought hard for equal opportunity throughout its history.

Racism may be an easy way to express frustration or anger toward an individual but is not the right thing to do.

Many people don't know why racist remarks may come out of their mouths.

One reason is simply because they've heard it from others.

And although this country has come a long way on this issue, it hasn't been solved entirely.

Traditionally, when people think of racism, it is aimed toward African-Americans.

However, racism can be aimed toward Hispanics, Asians, Middle Easterners, Caucasians or others.

I was recently a victim of several racial slurs during a trip to Wal-Mart. I've always been taught the color of one's skin doesn't matter, only character matters.

I thought I understood why racism was so bad, but couldn't exactly relate to it until I was the victim.

It really wasn't pleasant, and to be frank, it was absolutely ridiculous.

Yes, racism is an issue that will always be around. Many people's solution to it may be as simple as saying, "just get over it."

However, a simple resolution cannot be the answer to such a complex problem.

With Oklahoma City being one of the most diverse cities in the U.S., it's important to be familiar with the different cultures that surround us everyday in life.

At OCCC, there are organizations that students can take part in to become more familiar with those from different cultures.

These organizations include the International Student Association, the Hispanic Organization to Promote Education, Black Student Association and Native American club.

These organizations are open for anyone to participate in many activities to help better their communities.

At the same time, one can learn more about the people within the organization and make new friends.

The World Languages and Cultures Center is a great place to learn more about different cultures.

Although racism will never be completely washed away, becoming more familiar with certain customs and traditions can enable us to look past color and discover what comes from inside.

—Matt Bishop
Staff Writer

Professor speaks on reactions

To the editor:

In anticipation of the OCCC production of "In the Blood," I thought it might be informative to present a portion of the play in order to raise awareness of the existence of the theater program at OCCC.

To do so, I selected a scene where a street corner preacher is confronted by the mother of his illegitimate child.

In the play, the preacher is described as "preaching to no one in particular."

We staged it in the open stairs of the Main Building to attract interested on-lookers. I did not anticipate the conflict that resulted.

Angry teachers, students and on-lookers weighed in with accusations, threats and vulgarities. What was behind this?

According to the Pioneer report, those who objected seemed to object to the religious nature of the monologue but there was no mention of God, Jesus, Mohammed or any other deity that I know of.

The character speaks of pulling one's self up by the bootstraps and taking con-

trol of one's own destiny.

I suspect that what actually happened is those people heard what they thought was religious pontification and stopped listening.

In effect, they didn't hear what was being said or how it was being said.

At no time did anyone ask what was going on. All anyone seemed certain of is their comfortable and insular life was being violated and someone had to pay.

It has been suggested that all of this might have been avoided if the scene were done out of the earshot of those who were offended.

But isn't that what we want to do with everything that makes us uncomfortable?

"I don't mind homosexuals, I just don't want to see them kiss." "I don't mind the homeless, as long as they stay out of my neighborhood." "I don't mind someone who thinks differently than me, as long as I don't have to hear about it."

Isn't college a place we come to hear other points of view, and engage in dis-

cussion and debate?

If we want to learn without distraction, there is always the library.

However, education is messy, loud, uncomfortable and sometimes happens outside the classroom.

—Brent Noel
Theater Professor

PIONEER

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OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

off the mark by Mark Parisi
www.offthemark.com



Comments and Reviews

'Quarantine' sickens viewers with extreme camera angles

If the movie doesn't make you sick to your stomach, the camera-work will.

"Quarantine" is another "infected" movie, directed by John Erick Dowdle ("The Pughkeepsie Tapes") with camera shots similar to films "Cloverfield" and "The Blair Witch Project."

In "Quarantine," news anchor Angela Vidal (Jennifer Carpenter) and her cameraman Scott Percival (Steve Harris) are assigned to shadow the Los Angeles Fire Department during the night shift.

While Vidal is restlessly waiting at the fire station, the fire alarm is set off on a call to a small apartment building.

When everyone arrives on the scene, there are already policemen in the building responding to the blood curdling yells reported by witnesses.

Soon after, they all realize they are in the middle of a quarantine.

They all find out the woman who was screaming

was infected with an unknown virus they presumed was a bad case of rabies.

When the quarantine is lifted, however, the only thing remaining is the videotape as the movie ends on a sour note.

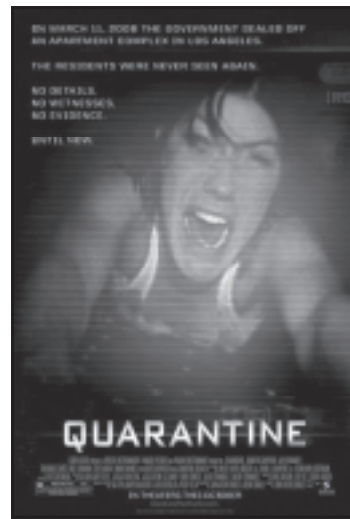
The film had a good idea of taking the thoughts of a group of people confined in a dark space with no way out. But it fell short.

The lone problem: "Cloverfield"-style camera work.

Although the camera seemed more realistic than the improbable battery life of that the camera in Cloverfield had, the constant unsteadiness of the camera created a nauseous environment for moviegoers.

The random flickering of the camera's light and urgency presented by the actors also added to the nausea.

Vidal and Percival's acting was weak in the beginning but slowly progressed



to somewhat believable.

The infected people were portrayed pretty well, not like mindless drones, but with actual emotion and intensity.

"Quarantine" serves up the gore and blood and is not for the squimish.

Overall, the idea is great. The way the movie was filmed, however, put a huge dent in its entertainment value.

Rating: C-

—Stephen Sossamon
Staff Writer

'Dreamer' ignites listeners

Metal, hardcore and punk fans can breathe a sigh of relief. Haste The Day's "Dreamer" is here.

"Dreamer" is the fourth full-length album Haste The Day has released.

Coming on the heels of "Pressure The Hinges," the band's third full-length, the maturation of lead vocalist Stephen Keech has become evident.

The shakiness in his voice from "Pressure The Hinges" could not be found in "Dreamer" as Keech has filled the shoes of former lead vocalist Jimmy Ryan.

The album kicked off in a brutal manner with "68," featuring a more clean-sounding scream from Keech.

The band then showcases their dynamic vocals in "Madman," with Keech, guitarist and vocalist Brennan Chaulk, bassist and vocalist Mike Murphy and even drummer Devin Chaulk.

"Haunting" is a chilling track with hardcore punk-styled vocals mixed with some clean singing from Keech. The track bursts into the second verse with a gritty guitar riff while Keech screams "We'll kill the parasite that lingers in our skin. The loss of appetite, but you got what you wanted."

The album then slows to a more melodic side in "Resolve." Don't let the rolling double bass pedal fool you.

This isn't a very heavy song.

"An Adult Tree" presents a softer side of the band in the intro then bursts into beautiful chaos.

"Babylon" and "Invoke Reform," the next two tracks, are arguably the heaviest on the album. Both pack a pretty powerful punch, but I found myself more intrigued by "Invoke Reform," with its infectious beat and heavy chorus.

The album then takes an interesting turn in the metallic rock track "Sons of A Fallen Nation," which is another track showcasing the vocal variety the band has to offer.

The band then decides to slow down into the calming

atmosphere of "Labyrinth," even though the message of the song is that of giving up.

Then comes the epic "Porcelain." The band came together in fashionable form for what should have been the album's finale. And what a grand one it would have been.

"Porcelain" shows many off beats, crazy rhythms, ridiculous guitar riffs and screeching and howling vocals. These elements leave the listener begging for more.

The album ends on a soft note with an acoustic remix of "Autumn," which first appeared on their extended play "That They May Know You."

The over-all sound of the band hasn't changed a whole lot, but old and new fans alike should find this album sticking in their heads for weeks.

Any fan of metal, hardcore or punk should find this album enjoyable.

Rating: A

—Stephen Sossamon
Staff Writer



Q: Are there any plans for OCCC to help the parking situation on campus, such as a parking garage?

A: The college is bringing 478 new parking spaces with a project being completed in lots D, E and F on the west side of campus. A parking garage has been considered, but there are no plans for one yet.

The new spaces in lots D, E and F should solve parking problems.

—J.B. Messer
Physical Plant Director

Q: Why do we have the painted buffalo down on the first floor of the Main Building?

A: P. B. Odom III, of P. B. Odom Construction Inc., bought the buffalo from the Spirit of the Buffalo art project, which is headed by the Nature Conservancy of Oklahoma.

Odom thought that OCCC would be a good home for the buffalo where it wouldn't be weathered or vandalized.

—Pat Berryhill
Executive Director of
Institutional Advancement

Q: I received a Debit Card from the college in the mail. What is this?

A: As an OCCC student, you will receive a new OCCC Debit Card. It's very important that you hang on to your card because that's how you will receive any financial aid or school refunds that might be coming your way.

—OCCC Website

Election Coverage '08

Final face-off for candidates

By **Cameron Buchholtz**
Staff Writer

The final 2008 presidential debate took place Oct. 15 in Hempstead, N.Y.

With just two weeks until the election and Sen. Barack Obama leading in the polls, Sen. John McCain went on the offensive for most of the debate.

The economy was a hot topic, with McCain questioning Obama's economic proposals and claiming they would lead to tax increases for many Americans.

"Why would you want to raise anybody's taxes right now?" McCain asked.

Obama responded by saying his tax increases would only be for the top five percent of earners and accused McCain's proposals of giving tax breaks to oil and gas companies.

The economic discussion made a national celebrity out of Ohio resident Joe Wurzelbacher, a plumber who confronted Obama about his tax policies at a recent rally. The two candidates referred to "Joe the Plumber" over two dozen times throughout the evening.

McCain also attacked Obama about off-shore

drilling, his ties to the founder of the radical 1960s activist group Weather Underground, William Ayers, and ACORN, a liberal activist group that Obama represented in a voting rights lawsuit in the 1990s.

McCain also sought to distance himself from the Bush Administration. "I am not President Bush," McCain said. "If you wanted to run against President Bush, you should have run four years ago."

Obama responded by saying "on the core economic issues that matter to the American people, you have been a vigorous supporter of President Bush." OCCC student Blake Burns expressed his discouragement with McCain's performance.

"McCain seemed to be just attacking Obama just for the sake of trying to rattle him," Burns said. "In my opinion, Obama stayed calm and collected. He never took his focus off the important issues."

Other students pointed to McCain's sarcastic remarks concerning Obama's eloquence as distraction.

"McCain got too petty," said Jessica Shandis, a McCain supporter. "It

doesn't make him look good when he's spending his time attacking Obama's speaking abilities rather than talk about the key issues. It was a victory for Obama, unfortunately."

Not all students agreed, however.

Freshman Jeremy Dobbs said he began watching the debate as an undecided voter, but at the conclusion he committed to McCain.

"He is by far best suited to lead," Dobbs said. "He showed real urgency and composure [at the debate]."

Burns disagreed, saying Obama displayed superior composure when Bob Schieffer, the debate moderator, questioned the candidates on the negative remarks and ads that each has aimed at the other.

"McCain seemed like he wanted to focus on the punches being thrown between the campaigns while Obama kept trying to move the dialogue past the 'hurt feelings' of the two candidates and focus on what is important to the American people," Burns said.

"I liked when Obama said he didn't mind if people continued to attack him for the next three weeks, but that he was going to focus on the real issues at stake."

What *they* say...

International students on the importance of the election to them and their home countries



"The election is super important and I wish I could vote. I hear people talking about it all the time. It's going to be an important thing in my future and as an international student. Everyone is always talking about it, my boss is Russian and is always talking about it. Everyone is nervous, in a way."

—Daniel Vargas, Mexico



"I haven't been really keeping up with the election, but I think it's important for the people."

—Tuyen Doan, Vietnam



"Right now, I'm not interested about that. The people back home haven't talked too much about it."

—Kim Gihjum, South Korea

Professors encourage student voters to participate

By **Kenny Hilburn**
Staff Writer

With just two weeks to go in the presidential race, OCCC's political science professors are racing to get students prepared.

"Students, like all other American voters, have the potential to affect the broad outlines of policy decisions," said political science

professor John Hughes.

Many professors have integrated discussions or class projects pertaining to the upcoming election into their classes.

Political Science professor Dana Glencross is lecturing about important issues that pertain to students, and she is also lecturing on why it is important to vote.

Professor Rick Vollmer has assigned his students to study either Sen. John McCain or Sen. Barack Obama, and then report over their stances on important issues.

"My idea is that we can

provide information on the candidates," Vollmer said. "Then the students can decide."

Many of the political science professors also have been stressing the importance of student involvement.

Hughes said college students have been branded among the worst of America's voters. "College students potentially represent the single largest unorganized political interest group in America," he said.

Because political science is a required class for all students, the professors are able to lecture about the

election to a large percentage of students. They hope to see more student involvement in the presidential race as a result of their efforts.

But the real question is, how involved are students?

"Students are involved in the process ... but when it comes to voting, there is a disconnect," said Vollmer.

Most of the political science professors seem to feel the same way. They all said that the upcoming election could be one of the most important elections they have ever seen.

Hughes said young people are substantially

"Your vote is your voice."

—John Hughes
Political Science Professor

under-represented in the polls.

"Students could have an extremely large influence on the election," he said. "However, if the past is prologue, they'll probably only have a minor or moderate impact on the results."

Hughes urged all students to educate themselves on the candidates and to exercise their right to vote.

"Your vote is your voice," he said.

The 2008 presidential elections are Tuesday, Nov. 4

Have you educated yourself?

No more leeway in Test Center policy

By Alison Travis
News Writing Student

From this point on, the Test Center is adhering to a campus policy that has been in effect since last fall, but hasn't been fully enforced.

No student will be allowed to test in the Test Center without a valid OCCC photo ID — no more exceptions, said Testing and Assessment Director Jim Ellis.

"No college ID, no test," he said. "Taking any college-related academic exam will require a current college ID."

Required student IDs went into effect last year but 10 months later, Ellis said, the Test Center is still having problems with students making the excuse of "my ID is not with me."

"One of the reasons for flexibility in the past policy was to allow time for students to get used to it and secure the IDs," he said.

"It will be quite a change from the way things used to be."

Students can get a student ID at the Records and Graduation Services counter located in the Main Building, Ellis said.

The first ID is free. Each successive ID costs \$10.

Ellis said students need to understand the importance of getting an ID prior to needing one to take a test.

"The Records counter is open for standard hours of operation ... and cover more than the standard work week," Ellis said.

"Those who claim that they are unable to get to the records counter during their open hours will need to arrange to get there."

He said all the excuses of the past will no longer work. Ellis said those include "I left [my ID] in my backpack in my car." "My boyfriend carries all of my things," "I had it my pocket last night but changed jeans this morning."

He said all students, even those who register online, have to be on campus at some point and should arrange to get a student ID

during that time.

Ellis said the standard (Records counter) hours are Monday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"Coming to school without your student ID is like going to work without your tools," Ellis said.

He said the ID is required for a number of reasons.

One is to cut down on the incidents of cheating the center has experienced in the past.

Another is because the center's database requires a scan of the ID to allow test-taking to even begin.

When an ID is scanned to log a student in to take an exam, a photo of the student, along with a class schedule, appears on the Test Center computer screen," Ellis said.

Testing Center staff then enter the test number,

which starts the test and records the information in the Test Center database.

In addition to bringing an ID, students need something to write with and a calculator, if needed. Students also need to know the exact class and test number of the test being taken.

The Testing Center does not allow any possessions while taking a test, Ellis said. Students are given a locker to put their belongings in.

The Testing Center is located in room 1F4 in the

Main Building and is open Monday through Saturday during the fall and spring semesters.

Hours are Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.; and Friday and Saturday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"Enforcing [the policy] will mean that persons will be turned away thereby creating hard feelings and irritation, and anger and frustration," Ellis said.

"It still will be done. The Test Center staff is doing its job."

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Media critic demonstrates gender, racial bias in '08 election coverage

By Christa Stewart
News Writing Student

Drawing both laughs and gasps from the crowd of more than 100 in the college union Oct. 9, media critic Jennifer Pozner showed clips from broadcasts ranging from Saturday Night Live to MSNBC during her lecture entitled "Race, Gender and the Media in the 2008 Elections."

Broadcast commentator and founder of Women in Media and News, Pozner said she is committed to making a difference when it comes to ridding the media of gender and race stereotypes.

"Accurate, diverse news and entertainment media are essential to a vibrant democracy and an informed public," Pozner said on her website — www.wimnonline.org.

Pozner said media plays an important role in shaping the public's perceptions of candidates and political parties in this election year. She believes race and gender biases can be detrimental to the electorate.

"Fluff isn't what we need from journalists to make informed decisions," she said.

Throughout her lecture, Pozner pointed to blatant sexism in media coverage about Hillary Clinton and Sarah Palin, racism against Barack Obama, and the intersection of sexism and racism relative to Michelle Obama.

Pozner said she is disappointed by the fact that the media pits women and people of color against each other.

"The media has long favored white men as strong, able leaders by treating them as race and gender neutral," she said. "Everyone else is treated as outsiders."

Pozner blamed the media

for "bogging blacks and whites down with stereotypes and double-standards."

Pozner described the media coverage surrounding Hillary Clinton as an example.

Rather than pointing to



Photo courtesy of www.webujournal.com

her leadership abilities, or the lack thereof, Pozner said the media was more concerned with Clinton's fashion, weight, wrinkles, cleavage, PMS, mood swings and even her voice, demeaning her laugh as the Clinton "cackle."

She said when describing Sarah Palin, the media referred to her sexual desirability.

The media described Palin as a romantic prospect for her running mate, John McCain, and male voters alike, rather than addressing her as a viable political prospect, she said.

Palin is constantly being described primarily on the basis of her appearance and sexual appeal rather than her abilities as a leader of America, Pozner said.

She voiced concerns that the impressionable voting public hears too little about the candidates' actual policy or positions that could affect them. Instead, Pozner said, there is a "focus on frivolous and

gendered details."

Pozner would prefer the media "focus on helping us decide who to vote for and who would be the best choice for the country," rather than meaningless and inconsequential minutia.

Pozner claims that gender and sexism in the media and in politics is not new. It's an age-old problem that the media does not talk about the expertise of women. The message is clearly "ladies first, leaders second." On one hand, women candidates are expected to be feminine and lady-like; on the other hand, they are expected to be as tough as their male counterparts.

Pozner indicated that many commentators have voiced concerns about Barack Obama getting a free ride in the media, saying that journalists love him and are trying to help

"The media has long favored white men as strong, able leaders by treating them as race and gender neutral. Everyone else is treated as outsiders."

—Jennifer Pozner
Media critic

him win the election.

On the other hand, a frequently asked question is: "Are we ready for an African American president?"

Viewers and listeners will note that this question is most often posed by white newscasters, Pozner said, reflecting the position that white males are the norm and the standard for leadership in America.

In contrast, no one questions whether John McCain would represent the entire nation as president of the U.S.

Pozner said it is unfair to make people of color and women have to prove themselves as humans who will represent all of America instead of just the identity groups they are associated with.

Pozner discussed the unique problem Michelle

Obama poses alongside her husband. While Ivy League educated and an attorney by trade, Michelle Obama is simply referred to as "pretty" and "lady-like in appearance."

Plus, the media errs on the side of the negative, Pozner said. Commentators often portray Michelle Obama's "angry black woman" traits when they refer to her as "Mrs. Grievance" and "Obama's Baby Mama."

"Who cares about all of the fluff?" Pozner asked.

At the end of her presentation, Pozner encouraged the audience of prospective voters to focus on the information needed in order to make informed decisions, rather than concentrate on the inappropriate biases and stereotypes fueled by the media.

OCCC jazz musicians to hold concert, free admission to all

Brooke Singletary
News Writing Student

OCCC's first jazz concert of the year will be held at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 23 in the college theater, said Michael Boyle, music professor. Admission is free.

Boyle said the two separate bands are made up of students. One band practices on Tuesday nights and the other band practices on Wednesday nights.

The bands will play music made famous by Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Talking Heads, Ray Charles, and modern rock

band Cake.

The bands pick out different pieces so that they don't play the same music, Boyle said.

Boyle said some veteran band members are back for a second and even third year. Geneva Bryant is a third year band member, while Lee Williams and Jon Loveless are second year band members, just to name a few.

There are also some new faces this year. The bands have new drummers and bass players. David Traxler, one of the newest drummers, is in the Tuesday and Wednesday night bands.

"I encourage people to come out and listen to us play and have fun," Traxler said.

Ben Harrison is in the Tuesday night jazz band. He plays the trombone and has been in the jazz band for the past two years.

"I think it's going to be a great concert," Harrison said. "We practice very hard."

Boyle encouraged all students to take the opportunity to support their fellow students by attending.

For more information on the OCCC jazz bands, visit their MySpace page www.myspace.com/otripjazz.

Ability Awareness Fair teaches understanding for disabilities



Younes Amini, pre-engineering major, steers his way through the wheelchair course in the College Union during the Ability Awareness Fair. The fair provided students with activities to teach them a few of the difficulties physically disabled people experiences in daily life.



Allison Mullins, business major, sings to a lunchtime crowd during the Ability Awareness Fair. Mullins, who overcame severe dyslexia as a child, has been singing for about eight years and she aspires to share her talent so that people will be encouraged to follow their dreams, and believe in themselves.

On Oct. 15 the Ability Awareness Fair educated people on some of the challenges of pursuing education while being disabled.

"We want to educate people on some of the struggles of disabled students," said Michael Hendricks, Empowered Students and Individuals president. One of the avenues that ESI used to teach students was an array of activities putting them in a disabled person's shoes.

One of the activities was a set of cones that had to be navigated while in a wheelchair, Hendricks said. Another was a course that required people to be blindfolded before they could attempt to get to the end.

Student Life was also there cosponsoring the event to help promote student awareness, Hendricks said.

TRiO was at the fair also, with tables set up that showed some of the equipment used to help students learn more efficiently.

"We don't want to discourage people by preaching this at them," Hendricks said. "We just want to educate and inform people on what school is like for students with disabilities."

For more information on ESI or Student Life activities, e-mail ESI sponsor Jenna Howard at jhoward@occc.edu.



Serena McNair, sociology major, makes her way through the blindfold course at the Ability Awareness Fair. The Ability Awareness Fair gave students the opportunity to experience the difficulties that disabled students face in everyday life.

**Photos by
Kenny Hilburn**

**Text by
Bartees Cox**

Sports

UPCOMING

OCCC INTRAMURALS EVENTS

- **Oct. 20:** OCCC Chance club basketball team scheduled to play Southwestern Christian University at 7 p.m. in Bethany.
- **Oct 24-26:** The OCCC Aquatic Center will host the Chesapeake Halloween Invitational swim meet. For more information on Aquatic Center events, call Aquatic and Safety Training Specialist James Hensley at 682-1611, ext. 7662.
- **Oct. 24:** Intramural basketball games scheduled for 1:30 p.m.; OCCC1 vs. Zilla and Pretty Boyz vs. ReMix.
- **Oct. 25:** Intramural basketball games scheduled for 1:30 p.m.; Short Bus vs. ReMix and Spartans vs. Geek Squad.
- **Oct. 31:** Intramural basketball games scheduled for 1:30 p.m.; Pretty Boyz vs. ReMix and Geek Squad vs. OCCC1.
- **Nov. 1:** Intramural basketball games scheduled for 1:30 p.m.; Zilla vs. Spartans and Short Bus vs. OCCC1.
- **Nov. 2:** OCCC club soccer plays the University of Oklahoma-Colsa at 11 a.m. in Edmond.
- **Nov. 4:** OCCC Chance club basketball team scheduled to play Southwestern Christian University at 7 p.m. in Bethany.
- **Nov. 8:** OCCC club soccer plays Arkansas University at 3 p.m. in Tulsa.
- **Nov. 8:** Team meeting scheduled for OCCC Chance club basketball team at noon in the Wellness Center gym.
- **Nov. 9:** OCCC club soccer plays Oklahoma State University at 3 p.m. at Rose State College in Midwest City.



Zilla forward Edward Winslett, (middle) and Short Bus guard Joshua Vanover, (left) tie up the ball during the first half of the 66-44 win for the Short Bus in week two of intramural basketball, Oct. 10.

The Short Bus (2-1) challenged the Geek Squad (1-0) in week three of Intramural basketball on Oct. 17.

Also, Zilla (0-4) played OCCC1 (0-1) on Oct. 17. Results were not available at press time.

Students interested in playing Intramural basketball can still sign up.

Intramural basketball is free, but students must have a valid student ID to play.

For more informational about Intramural basketball, call Recreation and Fitness Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

Photo by Kenny Hilburn

Bus cruises toward second win

Then, team falls short in rematch with Pretty Boyz

By Matt Bishop
Staff Writer

The Short Bus came back from a week one victory with momentum rolling as they defeated Zilla 66-44 on Oct. 10.

The Bus opened up a 16-2 lead within the first six minutes of the first half.

Todd Holmes joined the Bus in week two, contributing 24 points to the win.

Joshua Vanover only counted for four of the Bus's 66 points, but helped maintain a level head amongst his team.

During halftime, Vanover told his team to stay focused, despite having a 33-16 point lead.

"We aren't going to goof around this half," he said. "[This team] isn't like that. We need to keep playing hard."

During the beginning of the second half, three missed lay-ups by Holmes allowed Zilla to creep back, closing the gap to seven points at 35-28.

The Bus called a timeout and Vanover reiterated to his guys to stay focused.

The Bus remained calm and started pulling away the rest of the game.

Frustration set in as Zilla resorted to alternative ways to make a run.

"Y'all need to start calling fair calls," Zilla forward Donald Worth said to one of the referees.

Moments later, after firing a 3-pointer, Worth appeared to fall down in an attempt to get a foul called on the shot.

The referees called no foul and Worth laid on the court for several minutes holding an injured ankle.

Khaelin Russell picked up the slack for Zilla, scoring a double-double, with 18 points and 10 assists.

Anthony Carter scored 12 points for The Bus, including a block and

behind-the-back assist to DeJuan Smith, who capped off the game with a tomahawk-jam. Smith scored 10 points.

Jeremy Phillips also contributed 11 points to the Short Bus victory.

In other action, the Pretty Boyz got back on track with a 93-69 win over Remix in the 1:30 p.m. session.

During the 2:30 p.m. session, a rematch was set up between the Pretty Boyz and Short Bus. The Pretty Boyz avenged their previous loss with an 85-77 win over the Short Bus.

Also, ReMix beat Zilla 65-64.

Staff Writer Matt Bishop can be reached at SeniorWriter@occc.edu.

Want to know why the Spartans are on top of the Power Rankings?

Listen to our podcast with the Pioneer Online for in-depth sports stories at www.occc.edu/pioneer

Intramural Power Rankings		
RANK	TEAM	RECORD
1.	Spartans	1-0
2.	Pretty Boyz	2-1
3.	Short Bus	2-1
4.	Geek Squad	1-0
5.	ReMix	2-1
6.	Zilla	0-4
7.	OCCC1	0-1

Campus security trained for medical responses

By Jessica Hensley
News Writing Student

Injuries on campus can range from scrapes and cuts to the occasional serious emergency.

When an injury requires immediate attention, the OCCC security officers are prepared to help as first responders, said Keith Bourque, Campus Safety and Security coordinator.

Jesse Dages found this out when he suffered a medical emergency in the Aquatic Center recently.

A seasoned athlete, club swimmer and swim instructor, Dages is not unfamiliar with poolside injuries.

During a strenuous workout recently, Dages suffered an over-exertion attack.

"I knew I was in trouble

when I couldn't bend my knees," Dages said.

He said the college lifeguards sat him down away from the side of the pool and called for emergency help.

"In under two minutes, security was on the scene, and in five, the fire department and other emergency vehicles were, too," Dages said.

The security officer ad-

ministrated oxygen to Dages until the fire department arrived.

"When an emergency is reported, security immediately dispatches first responders to the scene," Bourque said.

"EMSA (the Emergency Medical Services Authority) is also called as is the Oklahoma City Fire department," he said.

Security officers are equipped to handle many medical emergencies, Bourque said.

"We have oxygen. We have an AED (automated exter-

nal defibrillator) as well as basic first aid.

"We do not dispense medication. As far as chest pain patients, trauma patients and the like, we can evaluate and treat and then hand them over to the paramedics."

All security officers are First Responder Certified and are required to update their training at least every two years, Bourque said.

Because of the First response team's efforts, Dages said, he was able to go back to his workout and drive home safely.

Economic issues have students rethinking where they spend money

"Economy,"
Cont. from page 1

\$20 late charges that can begin to add up if they go unpaid.

"A lot of students don't want to have to pay throughout the entire semester so they get on the payment plan but are paying their bills in full as soon as they can," Henson said. "More people are also looking for and receiving financial aid."

Students are feeling the heavy burden finances place on their shoulders.

"The economy really is affecting everyone," said student Colton Roberts. "It is especially hard on the students who are paying their own way through school."

Harper, a working student, agrees.

"I think college students are affected by the economy more than people would assume."

Thus, it seems, students should take the initiative to cut their spending and seek

out additional funding sources, many of which do not require repayment.

Linda Sapp, Recruitment and Admissions prospective student services assistant, said she is ready to help students find financial assistance through avenues such as department tuition waivers and a variety of scholarship sources.

On the wall, near the main entrance, Sapp regularly posts applications for a variety of programs and scholarships that can offer assistance to many students.

She said she is available by appointment to talk with students about scholarship opportunities.

Sapp said the opportunities range from scholarships for the full-time working student, to student veterans, to any student enrolled in 6 credit hours or more.

All students should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), Sapp said.

Low-income students

may qualify for grants, she said.

Pell Grants target low-income students typically with family incomes under \$50,000. This year, students receiving Pell Grants will receive approximately \$4,700 that does not have to be repaid, Sapp said.

"There really is something for everyone. New opportunities arise every day for an assortment of OCCC students. Not a lot of the many eligible young people are aware of these avenues they can take that could help them greatly."

Henson said it is these simple acts, such as completing scholarship applications or paying a bursar bill on time, that can help students reduce the financial burdens placed on them every day.

"It's the little things that we are all having to do to contend with the economy."

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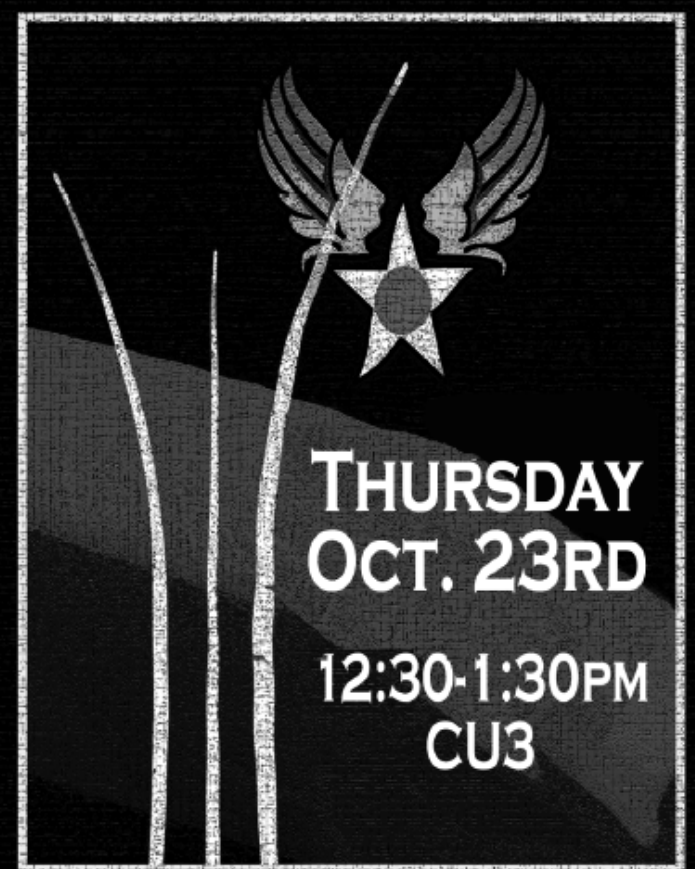
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Highlights

Psychology/Sociology club meeting

The Psychology/Sociology club will meet from noon to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 22, in room 3K3 of the Main Building. For more information, contact Isela Perez at 405-519-6222.

UCO Campus Tour

The OCCC Transfer Center is taking students to the University of Central Oklahoma. Students will receive a campus tour, information on application deadlines and transferring. Limited space is available. The tour dates for UCO are Oct. 21 and Nov. 13. Call Kim Lusk at 405-682-7566 for more information or to reserve a spot.

College Poets and Writers meeting

The College Poets and Writers will meet from 1 to 1:50 p.m. on Wednesdays, in room 1C3 in the Arts and Humanities area. For more information, contact Chris Verschage at 405-682-1611, ext. 7140.

Native American club meetings

The Native American Student Association will hold its club meetings from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. every Tuesday in room 2N7 of the Main Building. NASA is an excellent place for Native Americans to meet other Native Americans and create lifelong friendships. For more information, contact NASA publicity officer Paul Varela at 405-313-2076.

WLCC offering tutoring

The World Languages and Cultures Center is now offering U.S. History and Government tutoring for international students. Non-English speaking college students needing help in those areas are encouraged to sign up. For more information, contact the World Languages and Cultures Center at 405-682-7560.

Frybread sale

The Native American Student Association will host a frybread sale from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 21, at the College Union counter. For more information, please contact Paul Varela at 405-313-2076.

Dance classes starting up

The Community Outreach and Education program will host several dance classes for the fall semester. There will be two-step shuffle and west coast swing classes from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursdays, beginning Oct. 16, in the OCCC aerobics room. Also, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., the program will offer ballroom dancing, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. country and western dancing and from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m., swing dancing every Monday, beginning Oct. 20, also in the OCCC aerobics room. For more information, visit www.occ.edu/coe.

Fall writing workshop

There will be a writing workshop entitled "Recognizing Rhetoric" at noon Monday, Nov. 10, in room 2F3 of Arts and Humanities. Workshops usually last about 45 minutes. For more information, contact Communications Lab assistant Nick Webb at 405-682-1611, ext. 7678, or visit www.occ.edu/commlab.

Baptist Collegiate Ministries meeting

The Baptist Collegiate Ministries meets at noon Mondays in the theater lobby and at 12:30 p.m. on Thursdays in room 3N0 of the Main Building. The BCM offers Christian fellowship and a free lunch to all who attend. Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact BCM director Mike Barnett at 405-323-0583.

Highlights are due by 5 p.m. each Tuesday for publication in the next issue of the Pioneer. Students can submit any club event or other function to the Highlights section.

Raising funds



Photo by Kenny Hilburn

Sophomore Jesse James purchases some baked goods from Future Alumni Network treasurer Becky Connett. FAN held a bake sale outside of the Student Union Oct. 15 to raise money for trips and activities.

Passport to add involvement for various student activities

By Michael Hendricks
News Writing Student

The college has designed a new program to increase student participation in events around campus, and give students the chance to win a \$250 gift certificate to the OCCC book store. This program is entitled OCCC Passport.

Passport gives students an incentive to attend different events put on by the student service offices around campus, said Debra Vaughn, director of Career and Employment services.

"This program is open to all students, but targeted to students with 20 or more credit hours because it will help them succeed in their college career."

When a student picks up a passport from Student Life, it contains sections for the different events taking place around campus.

Students can get their

passports stamped by the staff by attending these events.

These events include Student Life Brown Bag workshops, employment workshops, confirming a major, transfer fairs and visiting the Test Center.

"There is no cost, lots of fun and a lot of good workshops," Vaughn said.

This program was a team effort, said Darin Behara, director of Student Life.

Jace Henley, theater major, has not been to a lot of events on campus.

"I would participate in the program," Henley said. "I feel that this program would appeal to any student who had trouble affording textbooks."

However, not all students feel the same about the passport program.

"I feel that the passport program is a waste of the school's money which can be used for something better," Psychology major Isela

Perez said. "I really don't think that very many students will take advantage of it."

Perez has attended some of the Student Services events.

In order to become eligible to win the gift certificate, a student must go to four events and get their passport stamped.

There must be four stamps with at least two colors.

The colors represent the different offices.

The completed passport must be turned in by Dec. 1 to the office of Student Life. The drawing will take place during the first week of December.

All students who complete their passports have an equal chance to win. The passport program will start fresh in the spring semester.

For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

Classifieds

Pioneer Classified Advertising is free to all enrolled OCCC students and employees for any personal classified ad. Ads must be submitted in writing with IDs supplied or work area and college extension included. Deadline for advertising is 5 p.m. Tuesday prior to the publication date. For more information, call 405-682-1611, ext. 7674, or adman@occc.edu

AUTOMOBILES

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FOR SALE: '00 Chevrolet Camaro. ABS, A/C, bucket seats, CD, rear defrost, tinted glass. Very good condition. Black. V6, 25MPG, XM ready. \$6,000 negotiable. Call Steve 405-417-7999, E-mail: tray_5_7@hotmail.com.

FOR SALE: 1997 Honda Accord, V6, Black, 4 door. \$4,000, OBO. Contact: 918-361-8277.

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DO YOU THINK YOU CAN WRITE? You do not have to be a professional writer to write a good story or poem. The Absolute OCCCs literary publication, is accepting submissions for the 2009 edition. Submission forms can be found in the Arts and Humanities Office. The deadline for entry is Dec. 1. For information, contact: crandolph@occc.edu; MMccauley@occc.edu; jinglett@occc.edu. Copies of the 2008 Absolute can be purchased in the OCCC bookstore.

GROUP BAND NEEDED: Film a music video. We will film the group on location and possibly in a studio. My classmate and I will direct and edit. The group will provide the music and talent. If you are interesting, talented and want a video to get your music out there, email me at: grant.e.devero@email.occc.edu

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ACROSS

- 1 Smelting residue
- 5 Old cattle town
- 10 Similar
- 14 Beneficiary
- 15 Happen again
- 16 Fizzy beverage
- 17 Loosen
- 18 Where to get a haircut
- 20 Breakfast bread
- 22 Treat with contempt, slangily
- 23 Knolls
- 24 Church council
- 26 Farm animal
- 27 Puppy's "hand"
- 30 Gold medalists
- 34 Pencil end
- 35 Frost
- 36 "Norma —"
- 37 Lauer or Groening
- 38 Gamut
- 40 Roam about
- 41 Southwestern Indian
- 42 Ali —
- 43 Required
- 45 Lull
- 47 Majestic
- 48 Exploit
- 49 Native New Zealander
- 50 Passport requirement

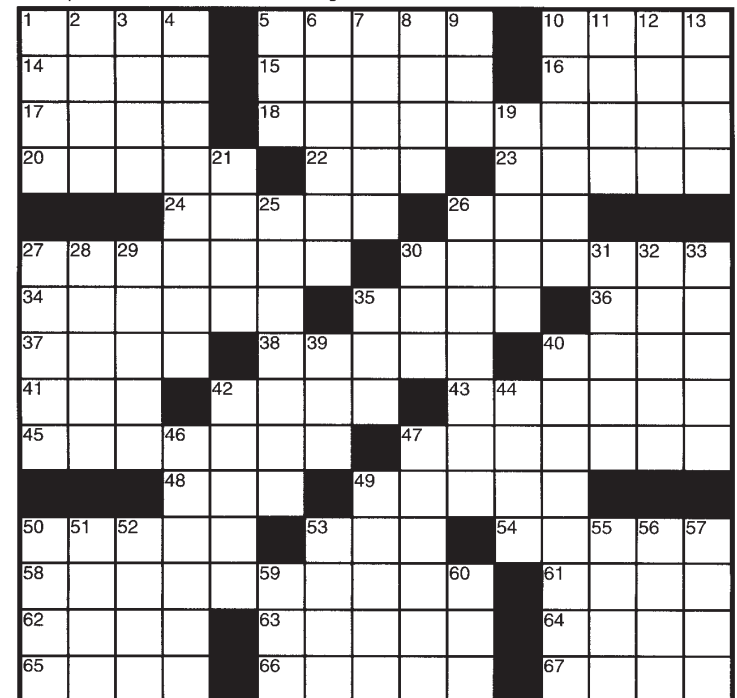
DOWN

- 1 Fastened securely
- 2 Letterman's rival
- 3 Verdi opera
- 4 Most disgusting
- 5 Sphere
- 6 Grassland
- 7 Bitter
- 8 Centers
- 9 "— we having fun yet?"
- 10 Give out (homework)
- 11 Eye makeup
- 12 Adulated one
- 13 Sleeps
- 19 Cologne's river
- 21 Use a keyboard
- 25 Tell (a story)
- 26 Olive stuffing

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

H	A	K	E	B	L	E	U	P	H	E	W
Y	A	R	D	A	L	I	E	N	E	A	V
E	R	O	S	B	O	L	L	W	E	E	V
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A	N	A	G	R	A	M	R	U	N	E	
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K	N	E	E	L	E	R	S	L	O	P	
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A	M	O	U	N	T	S	E	A	N	L	A
C	O	L	D	T	U	R	K	E	Y	P	U
I	L	I	E	R	A	I	D	S	O	M	N
D	E	N	S	E	N	D	S	T	E	S	S

- 27 Thighbone
- 28 Speak formally
- 29 Prices
- 30 False hair
- 31 Crumble away
- 32 "Bolero" composer
- 33 Dilapidated
- 35 Genetic initials
- 39 Honest —
- 40 Reserved in style
- 42 Herd animal
- 44 All —: attentive
- 46 Dons
- 47 Glossy fabric
- 49 Kind of syrup
- 50 Experts
- 51 Lend a hand
- 52 Concert halls
- 53 On a grand scale
- 55 "There ought to be —"
- 56 Callas, e.g.
- 57 Utters
- 59 "— Poetica"
- 60 Deli bread



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Stolen items top reports

By Stephen Sossamon
Staff Writer

Lost, missing and stolen items highlighted recent crime.

On Oct. 10, security officers Brandon Wheeler and Tanya Vroenen found three insulin syringes in the left exit lane of May Avenue while returning to campus, according to a report.

Vroenen said all of the syringes were used and had been recapped.

Wheeler reported he and Vroenen took the syringes back to the Safety and Security office where pictures were taken and then disposed of them.

On Oct. 9, security officer William Busby took a report on a clock with a built-in thermometer, missing from the library's fourth floor.

Cooperative Alliance Programs clerical assistant Jackie Maxwell said the clock was on her desk earlier in the day, before she left for lunch at noon. She said when she returned around 1 p.m., the clock was nowhere to be found.

The clock still has not been found and is valued at \$15, according to the report.

On Oct. 2, music professor Michael Boyle reported a piano bench missing.

Boyle said the last he saw the piano bench was in room 1E5.

He said he looked all around the theater, and in several other rooms around the area, but didn't locate the bench.

Boyle said the bench has a leather black seat, a wood base that is painted black with brass knobs on either side to adjust the width.

Staff Writer Stephen Sossamon can be reached at onlineeditor@occc.edu.

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